

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 10 to 14.

Claims 10 to 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oomori et al. (U.S. 6,815,144 B2).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Oomori '144 has an effective date of, at best, April 14, 1999.

On the other hand, the Japanese priority application on which the present application is based has an effective date of August 21, 1998.

A certified copy of said Japanese priority application is of record and there is submitted herewith an English translation with translator's statement indicating that the translation is a true English translation.

Accordingly, the Oomori '144 reference is antedated by Applicants' Japanese priority application.

With regard to the rejection of claims 10 to 14 on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over the Oomori '144 patent, there is submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer which disclaims the terminal portion of any patent maturing from the present application which extends beyond the expiration date of the Oomori '144 patent.

This Terminal Disclaimer is also responsive to the double patenting rejection in Official Action paragraphs 8 and 9 over Applicants' commonly assigned U.S. 6,890,697 and U.S. 6,869,745, each in view of Yoshimoto et al. (EP 0540032).

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

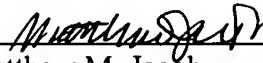
If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact

undersigned at the telephone number below.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
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Respectfully submitted,

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